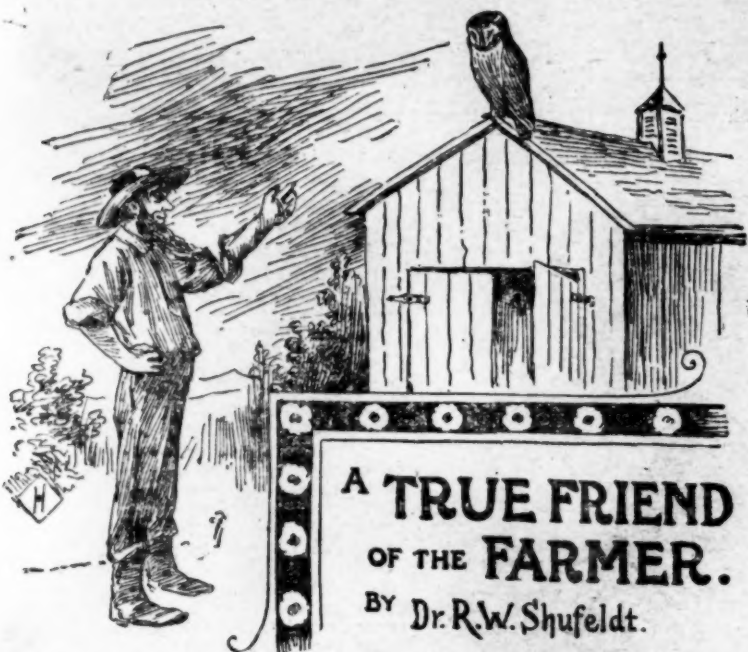


THE AMERICAN FARMER

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A TRUE FRIEND
OF THE FARMER.
By Dr. R.W. Shufeldt.

W

HAVE in the United States a great many species of owls, and they range in size all the way from the little Elf and Pigmy Owls of the West, the smallest of which are under six inches in length, to the more powerful varieties seen in our Alaskan Great Gray Owl, which frequently exceeds two feet in length; or, a bird that is more familiar to all of us, our Great Horned Owl, which has a total length of nearly, or about, two feet, thus almost equalling in size the Great Gray Owl. In popular parlance, there have not been many names bestowed upon these interesting birds, as all the larger kinds with feather "ear-tufts" are usually called "Cat Owls," the smaller kinds being named "Screech Owls," and, finally, the little Pigmies have been popularly christened "Sparrow Owls."

From his peculiar physiognomy, the particular owl I desire to bring to the notice of the readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER has quite universally received the name of "The Monkey-Faced Owl." This sobriquet is enough, at the outset, to prejudice most people against his owlship, and, so far as the writer is concerned, there has never been observed by him enough of the monkey in the face of the bird to have it deserve the name. All we can say is, that if there be a monkey in the whole of monkeydom that can claim to be as good looking as this owl is positively handsome, he may consider himself very fortunate.

The current English name among scientists and all others interested in ornithology for this species is THE AMERICAN BARN OWL, and it thus distinguishes it from the European species, which it very closely resembles. It is a larger bird, however, and other species very near akin to it are found in many parts all over the world. Science has given the name of *Strix pratensis* to our American bird—the Latin word *Strix*, or the generic name, being the ancient term for any screech owl, as *strido* means I screech or utter strident or shrill sounds. The specific name, *pratensis*, also Latin, refers to an inhabitant of the fields, and it is applicable to this species, inasmuch as it frequently hunts in such places for its food.

As I have said above, our Barn Owl is a handsome fellow, soft in plumage, not at all unpleasing in form, and with a history almost as old as that of man himself. He is by no means an uninteresting subject. One of our popular ornithologists thus describes his appearance:

"Above, including upper surfaces of wings and tail, tawny, fulvous, or orange-brown, delicately clouded or marbled with ashy and white, and dotted with blackish, sometimes also white; such marking resolved, or tending to resolve, into four or five bars of dark mottling on the wings and tail. Below, including lining of wings, varying from pure white to tawny, ochrey, or fulvous, but usually paler than the upper parts and dotted with small but distinct blackish specks. Face varying from white to fulvous or purplish-brown; in some shades as if stained with claret; usually quite dark or even black. About the eyes and the border of the disk, dark brown."

The birds vary much in coloration, but I am thus particular in

DESCRIBING HIS PLUMAGE, as I will soon show that it is highly important that every farmer in the land who has any regard for his interests ought to know this species, and know it well. It has a length averaging between 15 and 17 inches, and the young birds are covered with fluffy, white down. Speaking of the young calls up the

question of the nesting habits of this owl and we are at once brought face to face with a chapter in its history that actually is replete with all that a lover of birds likes to read about. Like all of our owls, it lays white eggs, but they are more pointed than is common for birds of this group, since their eggs, as a rule, are prone to be roundish, or more exactly, ellipsoidal in form. They rarely lay fewer than five, and may deposit as many as 11. When the latter is the number, however, some four or five of them are almost surely destined not to be hatched. Perhaps it was quite a misnomer to speak of the nesting habits of the Barn Owl, for strictly speaking they build no nest, but lay their eggs in such places as belfries, towers, roofs of buildings, hollow trees, sides of ravines on the ground, holes in clay banks, and frequently in other odd places. Here, in Washington, D. C., there has been a pair which reared their young for a number of years, off and on, in one of the towers of the Smithsonian Institution, and in 1890 reared a brood of seven young ones.

WHEN THEY DEPOSIT THEIR EGGS



THE AMERICAN BARN OWL.

at the bottom of a cavity in an old tree they make no nest there, but wholly rely upon the rubbish which accumulates in such a place. Bendire has said in his "Life History of American Birds" that where "holes in clay banks along rivers and the sides of ravines are used, or deserted burrows of ground squirrels or larger rodents, they are enlarged to suit their needs, and the birds live in them the year round, carrying most of their food to these places to be devoured at leisure." He also relates a case told him by Mr. W. O. Emerson, of Haywards, Cal., that at that place "a pair of Barn Owls nested the past season (1889) on the bare tin roof running around a cupola of a neighbor's house, which was surrounded by a low railing. Not less than 24 eggs were laid, and none of them were taken away at any time. There was no nesting material on which the eggs were placed, not even a single twig, and they naturally rolled around on the roof, as it was impossible for

the bird to cover them all. When taken down finally and examined it was found they were all rotten, caused, no doubt, by the intense heat from the sun's reflection on the tin roof." It is in Europe, however, that everything pertaining to the weird and the uncanny has been interwoven with the entire history of the congener of our Barn Owl. They call their bird the Screech Owl, and there are plenty of superstitious people left that believe—

"When screech owls crouch upon the chimney-tops, It's certain then you of a corpse shall hear."

And we all remember that Gray, drawing it truer to nature, remarked that—

"From yonder ivy-mantled tower The moping owl does to the moon complain Of such, as wandering near her secret bower, Molest her ancient, solitary reign."

But I am passing from the practical to the romantic, and we must tack back on the former course sharp now or all our lee room will be expended.

Now, and it pains me to record the fact, it is the common

PRACTICE ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY for farmer lads and for thoughtless persons everywhere who may be "out with a gun" to shoot this owl on sight. Hundreds of these birds are thus destroyed every year that goes by. Many are thus killed by the curious who have no other object in view save for a moment or so to examine its beautiful plumage or to have the opportunity to more closely inspect its odd appearance. But the farmer when asked for a reason must offer a better excuse than this amounts to, and he, as a rule, brings up in extenuation the old, time-worn plea that the owl destroys his young chickens. The mistake here is that he arraigns all owls on the same charge and, unfortunately, takes no care to discriminate among them, and by so doing murders one of his very best friends every time he takes the life of an American Barn Owl.

Permit me, in support of this statement, to call into court two most trustworthy witnesses, one of our own country and one of England. Waterton, the distinguished British naturalist and explorer, once kept a large colony of the Old-World species of this owl at his

bats, frogs, small reptiles, grasshoppers, and beetles. Very rarely small birds are caught by them, and occasionally a young rabbit varies the usual bill of fare. Looked at from an economic standpoint, it would be difficult to point out a more useful bird than this owl, and it deserves the fullest protection; but, as is too often the case, man, who should be its best friend, is generally the worst enemy it has to contend with, and is ruthlessly destroyed by him." And, further on: "The number of rats, mice, and other noxious vermin required by a pair of these owls to feed their family, usually consisting of from five to seven young, is almost incredible, and I am certain exceeds the captures of a dozen cats for the same period. The young owlets are always hungry, and will eat their own weight in food daily, and even more if they can get it."

In Southern California these birds sometimes occur in flocks of 50 or more, a thing I have never seen in the East. All this being as true as it is, it would practically seem to be the thing not only not to destroy these owls, but in some localities where rats, field mice, pocket gophers, and other real enemies of the farmer threaten him as a dangerous pest, it would be a wise move to encourage their presence in every possible way, or even to capture and import them from points where they are numerous and the country but as yet thinly settled. A colony of these owls inhabiting some rocky in the neighborhood of one's grain fields, instead of being a menace to the farmer's interests, are, on the contrary, a positive benefit to a man. They are quite as much deserving of his protection as is the faithful dog that guards his flocks and barn.

INSECT PESTS.

The Invasion of Plant Lice in New York.

Prof. J. A. Lintner, State Entomologist of New York, writes THE AMERICAN FARMER, under date of May 22, as follows, in regard to the alarming visitation of plant lice:

The remarkable abundance of these destructive little pests on the opening buds and tender leaves of fruit trees in the State of New York this Spring is exciting a great deal of interest and considerable apprehension among fruit growers. The apple tree has been particularly infested, the insect occurring on it, the *Aphis mali*, being one that multiplies under favoring conditions in excessive numbers, entirely covering twigs and standing one on another, and sucking out all the sap until the parts attacked are blighted.

From some portions of the State reports have reached me of the opening buds of apple trees being literally covered with these plant lice or Aphis, as they are scientifically known. As the reports have come from eastern, central, and northern Counties, it would appear as if the condition was general throughout the State. Whether it also extends into adjoining and other States is at yet unknown to me.

To inquiries made of the probable effect on the coming fruit crops of this attack, I have replied that it was unusually severe, and apparently exceeded anything that we had experienced since the year 1886, when the superabundance of plant lice of different species inflicted serious losses, and the hop aphid almost destroyed the hop crop of the State of New York. It was therefore desirable that fruit growers should spray their trees at once with kerosene emulsion, strong soap suds, or tobacco water, and not wait until the Aphis have greatly multiplied and found shelter within the curled leaves where the insecticide would not reach them. A long, cold rain following in a week or 10 days the appearance of the insect would probably be quite as beneficial as the spraying recommended, if we could judge from observations in preceding years, but, of course, this providential aid could not be counted upon.

Since then we have had throughout the State heavy rains, continuing with more or less intermission, amounting to from two to three inches of fall. It was not a cold rain, however, and judging from a few reports since received (I have not been able to make personal observations) it failed to prove very efficient in the desired direction, for the apple aphid is said to be about as abundant as before.

Our hop growers also are feeling considerable anxiety, for the same conditions that favor an unusual number of the apple aphid would naturally tend to the multiplication of the hop aphid, as was so markedly illustrated in 1886.

The hop growers have therefore been advised to keep close watch for the first appearance of the hop aphid on the upper leaves of the outer rows of their hop yards. They will probably be seen there about the last of May or the first of June as full-grown, winged females, which have just flown from neighboring plant trees where the Winter had been passed in the egg and the early Spring as wingless females.

If these, the mothers and progenitors of a number of successive broods through the Summer, are killed at this time by proper spraying with suitable insecticides, in the proportion that they are destroyed, with subsequent injury to the crop be prevented.

It is said that in England the hop growers do not attempt to grow a hop crop without their regular "hop washings," which we call spraying.

A WONDERFUL DISPLAY.

The Exhibit of the Department of Agriculture at the World's Fair.



ADVANTAGEOUSLY situated in the northeast portion of the Government Building, the exhibit of the United States Department of Agriculture is to be found, in many respects the most interesting as well as the most scientific of the displays made by any branch of the Government. The work of preparing and installing this exhibit has been under the personal supervision

after its arrival on our shores. Microscopists specially detailed show the method of inspecting pork for the trichina worm. A fine collection of pathological specimens in alcohol and models of the various diseases of domestic animals, as well as a collection of the bacteria producing the diseases, is to be found. Models are shown of some of the latest and most improved specimens of ship and car building, showing the care now taken for the comfort of live stock in transit.

A HORSESHOE EXHIBIT

demonstrates the right and wrong way to shoe a horse. Horse owners will do well to examine this carefully. The shoes worn by some of the record breakers when they made their names are for inspection.

The Chemical Division conducts an actual working laboratory of the most approved fashion for investigations

solutions to several perplexing questions may be solved right here. The colorings of the different mushrooms are very attractive, and furnish a surprise to the majority of visitors.

The Forestry Division justly receives a large share of praise for its effectual showing. This includes the exhibit of metal railroad ties adopted by the different countries, together with the various methods for preserving wooden ties and wood-saving devices. In addition are exhibited illustrations of the important metal tie patents. The turpentine industry is interestingly shown by tapped trunks of the Long-leaf or Southern pitch pine and the products made therefrom; in fact, with the trunks and growing pine seedlings of various ages, a most satisfactory representation is made of a turpentine orchard. All grades of crude and refined turpentine and rosins are advantageously displayed on a columnar stand. A few of our native and



THE AGRICULTURAL HALL AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

of the Hon. Edwin Willits, Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and Chairman of the Government Board of Control. In all the work of preparation it has been the constant aim to illustrate the scope of the several divisions of the Department, and the methods pursued in connection with their work, and the results attained. The space in the Government Building allotted to the Department of Agriculture has been so apportioned as to permit this. In addition to the displays made by these several divisions, fine collections of cereals, wool, cotton, and tobacco have been gathered by special agents appointed for this work.

THE CEREAL EXHIBIT

has been made with the purpose of demonstrating as accurately as possible the effects of climate and soil upon the different grains. Samples of wheat, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, and corn will be shown which have been collected from all sections of the country, with sufficient data accompanying each to enable one to make a careful comparison of the different varieties and the best habitat of each. There are specimens of the same variety grown in the extreme north and the far south. Each is peculiar to itself, and all taken together make a very interesting study.

The same results have been aimed at in the collection of cotton, wool, and tobacco. Of special interest to the tobacco raiser will be the display of this product, located near the rotunda. Here may be seen samples of every variety raised in the United States, scientifically arranged, with class as a basis. An attractive feature is a mass of tobacco showing the appearance of the product with the hoghead in which it was packed for shipment removed.

The wool grower will find a large and meritorious

COLLECTION OF WOOLS, furnishing data for a very satisfactory comparison of the relative values of the different domestic grades. The range of foreign samples is very complete. Wool growers will appreciate this collection. The specimens are attractively displayed in large glass jars. Besides these small samples, fleeces will be shown in the form of a large pyramid.

The cotton exhibit has been very carefully made and well illustrates the development and improvement of that industry in the United States. The samples of the raw product are shown in cases under glass, and are sufficiently numerous and carefully arranged to enable anyone to see and understand the how and why of the "case."

The Bureau of Animal Industry makes an excellent showing, happily combining the scientific and popular. Two sides of beef and a dressed hog, made of papier mache, illustrate the dressing of the same for market and tagging after inspection. The spread of pleuro-pneumonia in the world is graphically traced on a large-sized globe, marking its travels before and

in connection with the kinds of food and their adulterations and other studies of interest to the agriculturist. Sugar beets, their cultivation and manufacture, is made a feature of the exhibit. The instruments and apparatus in use are models of their kind.

The display of the Division of Entomology may be divided into five sections, illustrating, respectively, the injurious species of insects, insecticides, and apparatus for applying the same, systematic and biologic collections, apparatus and method employed in collecting, preparing, and rearing insects, and illustrations and maps. Each one of these divisions is an exhibit by itself of great interest. In this section are models illustrating the depredations worked upon various plants by insects. These have been

SO ACCURATELY MADE

in every detail that it is hard to imagine one is not beholding the plant itself in life. A hill of corn shows the injuries wrought by the boll worm and other insects. A matured cotton plant, a beautiful thing of itself, true in all respects to the real plant, represents the harm committed by the cotton-leaf worm and the boll worm. The potato plant shows the destruction of the potato bug, the tomato of the tomato worm, and so on. A very beautiful exhibit is the mounted specimens of the various insects, especially so of those from South America, the colors of which are most beautiful.

The Botanical Division shows a herbarium case containing specimens of most of the plants native to the United States mounted on sheets and properly labeled. A fine collection of the medicinal plants native to this country is shown in bottles. An out-door exhibit will be made of the desert plants growing in the arid regions of the southwestern States as soon as the weather is warm enough to permit. There is also a display of the most useful grasses raised in the United States.

All growers and lovers of fruits will devote a great deal of time to the space allotted to the display of the Pomological Division, which has prepared a large and most noteworthy collection of models of the

FRUITS OF THIS COUNTRY,

made and colored from actual specimens. In this way a rare opportunity for making a careful comparison of the different varieties of fruit, as grown in different sections of the United States, is offered, and the results from such a comparison are most interesting, even to a novice. In connection with the same exhibit will be shown the edible nuts native to the United States, and in other cases the proper method of cultivating the small fruits is illustrated.

Perhaps the display of no one division will demand more attention than that of the Division of Microscopy, which shows a large collection, finely prepared, of edible and poisonous fungi. A good deal of discussion has been indulged in this connection of late, and doubtless

foreign finishing woods are shown in

A MOST BEAUTIFUL PAGODA, consisting of 12 columns of handsomely veneered and carved wood. An electrical center piece, with four transparent lanterns, is beautifully designed and constructed of various colored thin sections of wood, all being illuminated by means of electric lamps. A large, octagonal seed column may be seen filled with seeds from the different trees indigenous to the United States, and around its broad terraced base is arranged a collection of living conifers of different ages. Another attractive feature of the forestry display is a series of 20 large monographs—frames with heavy slides cut from mature trunks of each species. Within the same species are illustrated by botanical specimens, photomicrographs, and maps showing geographical distribution. On several large screens are displayed some 225 forest botanical specimens in connection with as many sections of woods, which are accompanied by individual maps of distribution and other annotations of interest.

An economically-important feature in this division exhibit is a model of a tree-planting machine, which, aided by three men and five horses, has actually planted in an unbroken prairie 20,000 to 35,000 trees per day. The civil engineer will find a most interesting display of the timber tests which the Forestry Division has been conducting with valuable results during the last four years. The different methods of applying strains are carefully shown.

Two exhibits are made by the Office of Experiment Stations and

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

One in the Government Building illustrative of the work of the Office of Experiment Stations, and the other in the Agricultural Building showing the scope and work of the different Experiment Stations throughout the United States, under the supervision of the Office of Experiment Stations. This latter will demonstrate the operations of an actual Experiment Station fully equipped with apparatus, laboratories, etc., from the different stations located in the United States.

The corner occupied by the Office of Fiber Investigations attracts a great deal of notice, and justly, too. In boxes tastefully prepared and arranged are exposed such vegetable fibers as sisal, hemp, jute, ramie, and the pineapple fibers. In the flax and hemp displays are flax straw from different localities and dressed flax from the same, as well as samples of articles manufactured from it. Fiber, binding twine, and cordage are different forms in which the hemp is shown.

The Division of Vegetable Pathology illustrates some of the results derived from its study of the

VARIOUS FUNGUS DISEASES. Pear blight, peach yellows, mildew, and

Concluded on third page.



Stable Talk.

It is best to wait until the pastures get well started before turning the stock out. It will not pay to neglect the calf, no matter whether it is intended for beef or for the dairy.

The age at which females are bred for the first time has a good deal to do with the size of the stock.

The breeding of a two-year-old heifer for beef cattle is folly. The result is a stunted dam and an undersized calf.

When stock is put in the pasture see that you have an abundance of salt at hand. Do this this year for an experiment.

Brans and cut outs make a very good ration for the working teams, and bran and corn meal in equal parts is excellent for growing pigs.

The calf should not be permitted to eat more than its fill of food, as the gorging is liable to result in scours. Filthy surroundings are another cause, and if the animal is exposed to damp weather he may succeed in catching the disease. As there are no positive cure, prevention is the best thing for the farmer to use.

There are numerous easy ways of teaching the calf to drink, but to many this seems to be a very hard job. Give the calf the end of your finger a few times and he will soon learn to drink. Use the method as given by a little girl, who said that she taught the youngsters the way in which to drink by wrapping a piece of cloth around a corn cob and placing it in the milk.

Beets for Stock.

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: In order to make the most of our profession a free discussion of important subjects and interchange of practical experience must be had. Sugar beets are an important factor in stock raising. Two years ago Mr. Rusk sent me four or five pounds of beet seed. They did well on black loam, and by July 10 were large enough to feed. Being short of corn I fed them fresh to sows and pigs till corn would do to cut, and I never had hogs thrive and grow so. They are a bonanza to farmers, and will pay big money for time and trouble. For mow cows I would prefer Mangel Wurzel.

I would impress two great truths on the minds of our fellow craftsmen: First, the importance of breeding up all the time by getting the best sires our country affords for all their stock; second, make your land richer every year instead of poorer. I took one field to experiment with. The average corn yield was 40 bushels per acre. I sowed one bushel of rye per acre at 60 cents; cost for seedling, 70 cents per acre, making \$1.30; a cheap fertilizer. This field made a good winter pasture for sheep and calves. In March sent off, and that rye made a solid mat of luxuriant growth by May 1; plowed deep with three horses; prepared ground, and planted on 10th, and gathered from that field 50 bushels. Next year same process, 55; and so on ad infinitum. — DAVID P. PRITCHARD, Raysville, Ind.

Sore Shoulders.

Nothing is so dreaded and nothing is easier to prevent than sore shoulders with farm teams in the Spring work. If once started, the sore shoulder is liable to be a trouble during the Summer. It is caused from carelessness in adjusting the collar and the draft upon the shoulders. If the collar fits right and the harness adjusted to the collar and shoulder, the draft will bear the whole length of the shoulder and all will be well. A careless hired man or ignorant boy cannot be expected to take care of the shoulders. The harness should be overhauled and oiled now while time is less valuable than it will be when plowing time comes. Collars should be oiled and the stuffing loosened up by pounding with a hard stick of wood and kneading with the hands. The proper fitting of the collar should receive the attention of the farmer himself before the mischief is done. The harness should be removed at noon and the shoulders washed in warm, salty water to keep them clean and tough.

Pen Notes.

It certainly does not pay to breed sows before they are mature.

The young pigs should be fed in a pen by themselves where the old animals cannot gain access.

After the sow has farrowed the young pigs should be taken in hand and kept in good growing condition.

To make the most possible gain in the weight of the pigs it is best to feed them as soon as possible in addition to the milk they secure from the sow.

The two causes ascribed to the degeneracy of the hog in the West are, the practice of breeding from year to year from immature sows and the failure to supply food that has insufficient material to build up the bony and muscular structure.

A rapacious appetite was possessed by a hog in Scio, Ore. Its owner often said that it seemed to eat its own bulk of food at each meal. When the hog was killed it was found to possess two perfect stomachs and two perfect sets of intestines.

SHEEP AND WOOL.

Shearings.

It is corn or lumber to keep sheep warm in winter. Which is the cheapest?

The Montana Wool Journal says during the Spring about three lambs are eaten to one sheep.

Arizona last year sold 5,000,000 pounds of wool and 100,000 wethers. Not a bad showing.

A prominent Canada sheep breeder complains that "too many of the best rams find a market in the United States."

The latest use for wire netting is making hay racks for sheep. The meshes should be large enough to admit the nose but not the head.

If North Dakota continues to extend the sheep business at present rate it will only be a few years before the State will rank among the great wool growing States of this country.

There is no trouble about ewes having plenty of milk for their lambs in the Summer time, because the conditions are all right. Why not in winter? The conditions can be controlled in winter and should be.

Sheep raisers need to understand each other. They can only do this by frequent meetings and comparison of views on how they do things, how this and that practice pays, and why they failed in making as much money as they had expected.

Will the pure breeding of a ewe be affected by breeding her to a ram of another breed? The Vermont Spanish Merino Association have decided that a pure-bred Merino ewe bred to a ram of another breed can never again produce a pure-bred Merino lamb.

Every mutton raiser, and all are going to be who are not now, should study the local trade of his neighborhood and then go to the city stock yards, slaughter houses, and follow up the carcasses to see where they go, who buys them, and who eats them.

Every sheepman should attend the farmers' institutes. If the fair associations do not give sheep a fair show, attend the meetings of the board and tell what they want. Write and petition the State Legislature for a dog and a scab law that will protect your flock.

No man can tell another how to do a thing that will certainly make as much as it did for him; but almost anybody can tell something that will suggest a new idea that may be turned to advantage. This is what sheep raisers need now a little more than any other class of live-stock men.

It is interesting and profitable to know what is done with the fifth quarter, the skin, entrails, heads, legs, blood, and manure of sheep at the slaughtering houses. It is a fact that this fifth quarter, so often a loss on the farm, affords a big profit to the trade even if there were no other.

Hon. Wm. Ball, Hanover, Mich., one of the oldest and most enthusiastic breeders of American Merino sheep, has decided to start a flock of Shropshire sheep, and has purchased 10 ewe lambs, seven of them imported. Mr. Ball intends to continue breeding Merinos, but will experiment with Shropshires.

There are now 42 lambs in the flock of Southdowns at Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, Md. At this season of the year the number heretofore has always been smaller. This flock of Southdowns has been the pet of the city, and no expense has been spared in securing the best blood. It is believed that there is not a better flock of this breed in the world.

When the weather becomes excessively hot the sheep will not graze during the heat of the day. They will seek any apology of a shade that is found in the pasture. At such times it would be well to either feed them in racks in their yards or leave them in well supplied paddocks near the house, where they may feed during the night.

The National Board of the World's Fair has received a protest signed by practically all the commissioners represented in the exhibits against the system of awards adopted some months ago by which a single judge will pass upon the exhibits. They are earnest in their opposition to this plan, and threaten to withdraw from competition. They favor three judges.

The readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER will remember our interest in the rape plant last year and the valuable information on the culture and uses of this valuable stock feed. A bulletin has recently been issued on rape and its relation to successful sheep breeding by Prof. Thos. Shaw, Director of the Experiment Station, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. This bulletin will be sent to all who ask for it.

When a farmer buys a high-bred, high-priced ram and uses it on his flock it is reasonable to expect an improvement in the lambs; but when those lambs fall away below the sire in characteristics it is quite natural to blame the man who bred that ram. This is wrong. The ram would have done all that was represented by the breeder if it had been treated right. Here is a pointer that breeders and farmers would do well to look after.

The persistent use of lead and strychnine is the only remedy left sheep raisers against prowling curs. While many of the States have some sort of a dog law, the per cent of loss shows that none of them are efficient. The public sentiment in favor of dogs is so strong that none of these laws can be enforced. It only remains for sheepmen to keep cool, work quietly, cautiously, and steadily, avoiding lawsuits, but getting the dogs before they get their sheep.

Sheep Exposed to the Weather.

It is the common belief and practice that it does not hurt sheep to be out in the wind, snow, and rain; in other words, to take the weather. It is quite time more common-sense views were taken, and there is no better way to find out than for the owner to go out and take the weather with the sheep. It may be said the fleeces shed the rain and keep them warm. This is, in part, true; but let the owner put on his overcoat and wraps and see how it is himself. No one can deny the fact that a sheep is flesh and blood, with a system no more rugged than a strong, vigorous man. There is need of more humanity in the treatment of sheep.

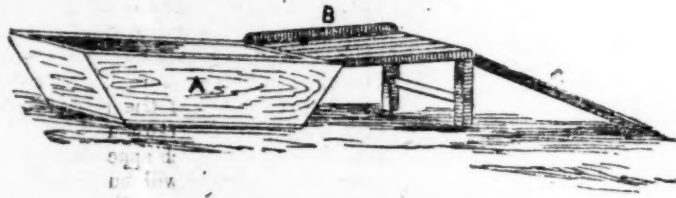
There is a difference of opinion with the most intelligent and successful sheep breeders about sheep having out-door, daily exercise. It is our opinion, however, that a sheep needs pure air and sunshine every day when the weather is favorable, when it is not cruelty, a punishment, a hardship for the sheep to be out of doors.

There is no place so fitting, so homelike, so entertaining (and entertainment is partly what is wanted) for a sheep as the pasture with which the sheep is familiar, for taking a daily run. There may be no grazing worth while for the sheep, but it finds amusement in fence corners, along the hillside, down near the brook, and finds comfort in chewing its cud and basking in the sunshine, or a sheltered part of the pasture.

A Cheap Dipping Vat.

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: What is the best plan to make a cheap dipping tank for a small flock.—P. J. ERNST, Johnson County, Kan.

A vat for a small flock can be cheaply and easily made of two-inch material that will last for some time. It has been in use in Australia for many years and been found to be of much value to the owner of small flocks. The part (A) which holds the dipping fluid measures four feet on the upper side, which is the longest, and three feet six inches on the lower. The depth can be made two or three feet, we preferring three feet, partially sinking in the earth. One end



A CHEAP AND CONVENIENT DIPPING VAT.

slopes from the bottom toward the draining board, which is attached to that end. The latter is about three feet long. The sheep is held on the draining board while the dip is pressed out and drains into the bath. A dip of this size can accommodate any number of sheep, though the fluid should be changed for every 50 of the animals submerged.—EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER.

The Breed to Raise.

There is need of all the breeds of sheep we have in the United States. The very fine wool, the medium fine, the middle wools, and the long wools have characteristics and adaptations that commend them to special attention, special managements, and special conditions. No one breed or sort of sheep can fill all places.



LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

Is a positive cure for all those painful ailments of women.

It will entirely cure the worst form of Female Complaints, all ovarian troubles, inflammation and ulceration, falling and displacements, of the womb, and consequent Spinal Weakness, and is peculiarly adapted to the Change of Life. Every time it will cure

Backache.

It has cured more cases of Lumbago, rheumatism, and neuralgia than any remedy the world has ever known. It is almost infallible in such cases. It dissolves and expels Tumors from the Uterus in an early stage of development, and checks any tendency to cancerous humors. That

Bearing-down Feeling

causing pain, weight, and backache, is instantly relieved and permanently cured by its use. Under all circumstances it acts in harmony with the laws that govern the female system, and is as harmless as water. It removes

Irregularity,

Suppressed or Painful Menstruations, Weakness of the Stomach, Indigestion, Bloating, Flooding, Nervous Prostration, Headache, General Debility. Also

Dizziness, Faintness,

Extreme Lassitude, "don't care" and "want to be left alone" feeling, excitability, irritability, nervousness, sleeplessness, flatulency, melancholy, or the blues, and backache. These are sure indications of Female Weakness, some derangement of the Uterus, or

Womb Troubles.

The whole story, however, is told in an illustrated booklet entitled "Guide to Health," by Mrs. Pinkham. It contains over 50 pages of most important information, which every woman, married or single, should know about herself. Send 2 two-cent stamps for it. For

Kidney Complaints

and Backache of either sex the Vegetable Compound is unequalled. All druggists sell it, or it can be sent by mail, in form of a box, for \$1.00. By mail, or of druggists. It is guaranteed to be of the highest quality. You can address in strictest confidence, LYDIA E. PINKHAM MED. CO., Lynn, Mass.

Registered sires are too important to be overlooked by the sheep raiser. With good, pure-bred rams, whose merits are guaranteed by a book of record, the breeding of sheep is reduced to a mathematical certainty. It is true the dealer, butcher, and consumer take little notice of the breeding of fat sheep, but the quality they want cannot be profitably obtained by low-grade sheep.

In purchasing a ram it is best to select one strongly representing the breed you prefer, but never take an overgrown specimen. It is too often the aim of sheep breeders to produce large rams at phenomenal ages to suit greenhorns and suckers. Remember, the best is none too good for the competitive achievements the American sheep raiser has to meet. Thoroughbreds are cheap in the light of results; scrubs and mongrels are too dear for the most ordinary farmer.

The "Still Plan" for Dogs.

From all sides comes the report of dogs killing sheep. The exchanges are full of midnight raids upon the flocks and discouragements of flock owners. The Michigan Farmer reports that dogs are so destructive to Cass County-sheep that the flockmasters threaten a war of extermination. This severe remedy is entirely justifiable, but it is very unwise to declare their purpose. The better plan would be to kill the dogs on the "still plan." Say nothing about it to anyone, but carry on the war until relief comes. Dog owners are apt to charge sheepmen with killing their dogs and are always ready to raise a racket.

The Drinking Water.

Water that is unfit for man is unfit for a sheep, a cow, or any other domestic animal. Let this subject receive the most careful thought and plan for an improvement. It may be thought that a sheep knows what it wants, and often drinks from a nasty pool when nice water is at hand. This is due, however, to a depraved appetite, brought about by the careless treatment given it. Educate the flock in this as well as other things.

The Kentucky Farmers Won't Stand It.

The farmers of Hart County, Ky., propose to organize into a sheep raisers' protective association to devise plans for the protection of sheep against dogs. A called (signed by 21 of the leading farmers of the County) meeting will be held at Mumfordsville the first Monday in June to organize against the dogs. The call says: "In view of the fact that sheep are now the most profitable stock handled in Hart County, and because of the serious losses being sustained by many farmers on account of dogs, we, the undersigned sheep raisers, do hereby call a meeting of all persons interested in the sheep industry to meet at Mumfordsville the first Monday in June for the purpose of organizing and devising plans for the protection of sheep against the ravages of dogs."

[THE AMERICAN FARMER indorses the above plan and recommends a general movement all along the line. Public sentiment must be aroused.—EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER.]

Four Samples of Merino Wool.

Two "rams' samples and two ewes' samples" from Alvin Crittenden, New London, O., are forwarded to us for criticism.

It is a matter for special congratulation that such wools as these can be and are so largely produced now in this country. As they lie on the rule they are from 3½ to 4½ inches long, and the crimp is so perfect that the fibers measure 4½ to 5½ when straightened out tight.

As nothing is said of the variety of these Merino sheep we are left to conjecture. They are fine delaines of the highest quality, and compare delightfully with the finest Australian samples in our wool cabinet.

We would be pleased to hear from Mr. Crittenden further about these sheep as to their breed, usefulness, and his manner of treating them.

The Sheep Taste of Mutton.

A man with better ideas on the subject than he used to have tells us the "sheep taste" of wool does not come from contact of the mutton in skinning or from tardiness in disemboweling the animal. It is of far deeper origin. It comes from poverty, unhealthy condition, old age, and similar causes. Nothing can give plainer proof of this than the savor of half-wild mutton and half grown on the wire grass of the Gulf States. When this is young and tender in the Spring and the animals are fat their flesh is delicious (nothing could be finer), but in the Winter when this grass gets dry and tough and is destitute of nourishment the animals become poor and their flesh has an odious taste, reminding one of the odor of a barnyard.—American Sheep Breeder.

The Skin as an Indicator.

To anticipate and prevent the possible trouble with a flock of sheep is the especial province of the shepherd. To do this it is necessary to handle the sheep frequently and critically. To the expert the skin will indicate good health or foreshadow coming trouble. With domestic breed the skin should be pinkish in color. If there is a marked deviation from this, either too white or of a purplish-red color, it is safe to infer that something is going wrong and some prompt changes are needed in feed and care.

PIANO AND ORGAN BOOK FREE.

Send your address on a postal, and you will receive the finest and most elaborate Catalogue of Pianos and Organs ever published. It will show you the latest and best styles, and how to **SAVE \$100.** Cut this out and mail it to us. You will be more than pleased at the result. OREGON from \$3.50 up. If you do not care, 174 A NASH FROM \$1.00 up. ESTABLISHED 1881. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Cornish Organ and Piano Co.

PATENTS

Opinions rendered as to the novelty and patentability of inventions and validity of patents. Rejected applications prosecuted. All business relating to patents promptly attended to.

GEORGE E. LEMON,
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ATTORNEY AT LAW AND SOLICITOR OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PATENTS.
Established 1885. Send for 67-Page Pamphlet.

A WATCH, A CHAIN, A PAPER, \$1.65

The Best Premium Offer Ever Made to the American Public.

NO TOY, NO HUMBUG, NO CATCH.

Only an Honest Watch and a Great Newspaper for Every Farmer for Less Money than he Can Secure them Anywhere Else.

THE FACE.

We first offered this great premium in our issue of Jan. 1 for \$1.60 for paper, watch, and chain, limiting the time to 30 days. The demand for them has come by thousands. We find that they cannot be produced so cheaply as we had expected. We are, therefore, obliged to increase the price from \$1.60 to \$1.65.

DESCRIPTION OF THE WATCH:

This watch is a timepiece guaranteed to run with accuracy. It need only be wound once every twenty-four hours. No key has to be carried, but it winds and sets by a patent attachment shown in the cut of the works. The face, therefore, need not be opened to set it. It is suitable to carry in the pocket or to hang upon the wall in bedroom or parlor. To save space the cuts are slightly reduced in size, the face of the watch being one and seven-eighths of an inch in diameter and fifteen-sixteenths of an inch thick. It is no heavier than an ordinary silver watch, and but a trifle thicker. It has a strong, quick beat and runs in any position, either at a standstill or in motion, and is not affected by heat or cold. It is open-faced, with a heavy, glass crystal. The case is polished and lacquered to resemble gold. This material is frequently advertised as onyx or onyxite. The chain is not shown in the cut. It sells at retail in the country from 15 to 25 cents. A small charm also goes with the chain.

Remember that THE AMERICAN FARMER comes twice a month at the regular price, when taken alone, is fifty cents a year. We send, postpaid, the watch, the chain, and the paper for an entire year for only one dollar and sixty-five cents.

Our arrangements for the watch compel us to put a time limit upon this offer. We can only furnish this premium combination to those who order within thirty days. We regret to be obliged to place any limit whatever, but the sum is so small that it will not inconvenience anyone, we trust, to send in his name and subscription price for the premium and paper at once.

In order to demonstrate our entire confidence in our proposition, we guarantee the delivery of the watch in good running order. The watch and chain will be sent, postage prepaid, to anyone who will send in a club of six yearly subscribers at 50 cents each, and only 10 cents additional money to pay cost of postage and wrapping. Address at once,

THE AMERICAN FARMER, Washington, D. C.

Foot Rot.

Has any sheepman in THE AMERICAN FARMER family got the foot rot in his flock? If so, and he is discouraged about curing it, we want to know it. If the sheep were troubled with it last Spring and seem to be better now when nothing has been done to cure them, it is safe to say when rain, mud, and manure are encountered they will have it again. It rarely if ever gets well without treatment except on the alkaline lands of the West. There is a valuable suggestion in the fact just stated. Foot rot is a terrible scourge to the man who does not know how to cure it, or who has not the time or patience to do the work. Thousands of good men have abandoned the business of keeping sheep on account of this troublesome disease on their farms. It is no joke to have an infected flock; but it is not hard to cure, and this is the best season of the year to cure it. No patent.

How Many Times a Day to Feed.

B. Missouri, asks: How many times a day should sheep be fed? There is a good deal of difference among flockmasters as to this question. It is the practice of some to feed grain only once a day. This they claim is the only feed they give their flocks, though it is found the sheep eat as often and as much as they choose. This is afforded them as a pasture, an amusement, by eating clover hay from racks; by following cattle and finishing up corn fodder that is left; by going through the stalk fields and nibbling here and there at their pleasure, and running to straw stacks. Others feed two and three times a day with perfect regularity.

Frozen Mutton in England.

The importation of frozen meat into England is increasing rapidly. From 15 to 20 per cent. of all the mutton consumed in the British Isles comes from New Zealand and the Rio de la Plata, to say nothing of other sources of supply. Last year New Zealand sent nearly 2,000,000, and the La Plata over 1,000,000 more carcasses to England.

The making of tannin extract from hemlock bark has become quite an industry in western Washington. The variety used, known as white hemlock, yields a very superior light extract, which gives leather a color that can hardly be distinguished from oak tan.

THE WORKS.

298 DUEBER

Silver-Plated Case. Solid Gold Case. Free. Send this out and you will receive the finest and most elaborate Catalogue of Pianos and Organs ever published. It will show you the latest and best styles, and how to **SAVE \$100.** Cut this out and mail it to us. You will be more than pleased at the result. OREGON from \$3.50 up. If you do not care, 174 A NASH FROM \$1.00 up. ESTABLISHED 1881. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Cornish Organ and Piano Co.

Established - - - 1819.

74TH YEAR.

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

"O fortunatus nimis est domus nostris agri-cola."—VIRGIL.

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Write for special inducements to club rulers.

Advertising rates made known upon application.

Our readers will oblige us, when writing to the publisher, to state whether they are subscribers to the American Farmer, or to the Southern Edition, or to both, and to give the name of the person to whom the paper should be sent.

When sending in subscriptions, specify whether for General or Southern Editions. Unless specially directed for the Southern Edition, all subscriptions will be entered for the General Edition.

TO ALL TO WHOM THIS PAPER SHALL COME.

Greeting: This

paper is sent you

that you may

have an opportunity

to see it and examine it

with a view to subscribing.

We ask you to compare its contents, objects, and price

with those of other papers, and see if you

ought to have it; that you cannot afford

to do without it. We can assure you

that if you send in your name for one

year that you will find it one of the most

profitable investments that you can make.

We hope to make and keep it so interesting

that you will think that every number

more than repays you for the

subscription price for a year. Please

call your neighbor's attention to the

paper.

A FREE TICKET

TO THE

WORLD'S FAIR.

All the readers of THE AMERICAN

FARMER want to go to the World's

Fair at Chicago, and we want to have

them go. We will do more—we will

give them help to get there. All

we ask in return is that they should

do some work in pushing the circulation

of THE AMERICAN FARMER among their

friends and acquaintances. This will

be easy, for the paper is so good, so

cheap, and so generally acceptable

that it scarcely requires more than being

brought to the notice of practical

farmers in order to secure their subscriptions.

Our position is this:

We will give a first-class round-trip

ticket from any point in the United

States to Chicago and return for a club

of subscribers, proportionate to the

distance the point is from Chicago.

This ticket will be for the most direct

route between the two places, and

it will have all the advantages in

regard to the time for which it will

be good, length of stay in Chicago, speed

of trains, etc., that any first-class ticket

will have. In brief, it will be a great

superiority, as there will doubtless be

many tickets offered by various parties

which will be only for very long trains,

inferior cars, limited as to time, etc.

Our tickets will all be for first-class, fast

trains, and have every privilege given

the best class of tickets.

The carrying out of this scheme

involves an immense amount of

correspondence and clerical work on our

part, and we are now preparing a

schedule of the sizes of clubs which we

will require from different points. We

will publish this as soon as completed,

which may be some time hence.

In the meanwhile, those who intend

to work for these tickets should begin

at once. They can send in their

subscriptions as fast as they obtain them,

notifying us that they are for a "World's

Fair Ticket," and they will be properly

credited to them. If they afterward

change their minds they can have the

subscriptions sent in applied on any other

premium that we offer.

We should very much like to have

those who expect to get up clubs for

PLANT RAPE.

We counsel our readers in the north-

ern half of the United States to plant

rape as a forage plant. Where the

ground is suitable for it, it has no su-

perior, and doubtful if any equals. It

can be put in from now until early in

July, and make splendid feed for sheep,

cattle, and swine. How far south it

will do well is a question, but there is

reason to believe that on proper soil it

would be very valuable all over the

South, and furnish an abundance of green

food far into the winter. Its property

of ripening in cool weather makes it

particularly desirable. It would be well

for our Southern readers, as well as

Northern ones, to try the experiment,

as it can be done at little cost. Let

them select a good piece of land from

which they have cut wheat, oats, rye, or

other crops, and seed it down to rape, as

they would to turnips. We risk nothing

in saying that in most cases they will

be surprised and delighted with the re-

sults. Rape is one of the chief reli-

ances of the farmers in England and

the north of Europe generally. It is

doing splendidly for the Ontario farm-

ers, and it is amazing that the farmers

of this country have paid so little at-

tention to it. THE AMERICAN FARMER

was the first paper to call it to the

notice of our people, and the general

interest taken in the matter, as well as

our certainty that its cultivation will

prove a most profitable addition to the

resources of our farmers, leads us to

continue to press it upon their attention.

We feel positive that every man who

has any stock to pasture, especially

sheep and hogs, should give rape a trial

this season.

THE AMERICAN FARMER has secured

a small quantity of the seed—imported

from England—for the benefit of its

readers. We will send a small bag—

containing about one pound—to every

present subscriber who will send us in

an additional yearly subscription before

July 1. Or, if anyone not now a sub-

scriber, will send us his own name and

another one, both for one year (50

cents each), before July 1, we will send

him a pound bag of rape seed. If sown

in drills this will be enough to seed

half an acre to an acre. If sown broad-

cast, from one-third to one-fifth of an

acre. This will be enough to try the

experiment, and we are sure that nine

out of 10 who do so will be enthusiastic

rape growers next year.

This matter should be acted on at

once, as there is but a limited quantity

of the seed to be had this side of the

Atlantic.

THE MEETING OF CONGRESS.

The rumor goes now that the Pres-

ident will call Congress together in Au-

gust, instead of the early part of Sep-

tember, as has heretofore been believed

to be his intention. If this be so, then

the fight for farmers' rights will come

on that much earlier. The farmers

generally should awaken to the fact

that this is inevitable. There is going

to be a general assault all along the

line on all legislation for the benefit

of farmers, and particularly on that for

the protection of wool, tobacco, eggs,

fruit, hay, barley, rice, beans, peas,

broom corn, cabbages, hoes, hops,

onions, flaxseed, straw, oats and

meal, apples, nuts, peanuts, flax, tow,

etc. The manufacturers, importers, and

all the various other interests are going

to aid and abet the assault, partly to

save themselves by having the reduc-

tions made on other things than their

products, and partly to secure cheaper

THE ARBOR DAY MOVEMENT.

The annual report of the Secretary of

Agriculture for 1892, now in press, con-

tains a statistical table, compiled in the

Division of Forestry, which presents a

complete account of the progress of the

remarkable Arbor Day movement in

our country. This, as is well known,

was originated by Secretary Morton, and

he is gratified by the showing made in

this compilation, prepared several months

before his accession to office and without

his knowledge. We condense from its

statement the following items:

Arbor Day was instituted and first

observed in April, 1872, in accordance

with a resolution of the Nebraska Board

of Agriculture, formulated and intro-

duced by Mr. Morton. Its observance

was quickly followed by other States, es-

pecially those deficient in trees, and it

has now extended to every State, except

Delaware and Arkansas, and to every

Territory, except the Indian Territory

and Alaska. It has also passed the

Atlantic and gained a foothold in Great

Britain, France, and in other portions

of the Old World, and lodgment upon

the islands of the seas.

The day is established by law in 30

States. In others it has been recognized

only by usage or by boards of education,

village improvement societies, and other

like agencies. In several States it has

been made a legal holiday, while in all,

or nearly all, it has become a holiday

for schools.

In 1882 the public schools were in-

stituted to participate in the observance

of the day, and thus it has come to have

an important educational influence, cul-

tivating a tree sentiment, as it may be

called, which promises to raise up soon

a generation that will be lovers and

protectors rather than destroyers of

forests. Patriotic sentiment is also

greatly stimulated by the Arbor Day

exercises of the schools. State and

County Superintendents of Education

have shown much interest in Arbor Day,

and the National Education Associa-

tion passed a resolution last year re-

commending its universal observance.

Reports of the number of trees planted

are very incomplete, but it is known

that it reaches into billions. Several

millions of trees were planted April 22,

1893, in Nebraska alone. April 22 is

Secretary Morton's birthday. In Texas,

Alabama, and Oklahoma, February 22

has been adopted as Arbor Day. The

observance occurs most frequently in

April, though in many of the States the

date is variable, depending generally

upon the action of the Governor or the

Legislature, and sometimes of the Super-

intendent of Public Instruction.

COST OF CONVICT LABOR ON ROADS.

Mr. H. T. Groom, editor of the In-

dustrial American, of Lexington, Ky.,

has been investigating the cost of con-

vict labor with reference to road im-

provements. He finds that the cost to

the contractor of convict labor in

Georgia, where the convicts are em-

ployed in sawmills, mines, etc., in squads

of from 50 to 100, is about \$12.50 a

head per month for feeding, clothing,

guarding, transportation to and from

jail, etc. Where the convicts are em-

ployed upon railroads, and have to be

moved frequently, the cost runs up to

\$15 a month. In Arkansas, where the

contractors have been employing con-

vict labor for over 10 years, the cost of

feeding, guarding, clothing, etc., is only

\$5.35 a month per head. They are

usually employed in squads of 30.

Where the squads are smaller the cost

is greater. Mr. Groom assumes that

THE FUTURE OF THE SHEEP BUSINESS.

Every country has a sheep husbandry

suited to its soil, climate, and the wants

of its people. This has been true of

all industrious nations of the world. As

the industries and civilization of a

people have undergone a change, their

sheep husbandry has kept pace with

those evolutions to meet the wants of

the people and of agriculture. These

alterations or adaptations always follow,

but never precede, the demands of civiliza-

tion, and always are in accord with the

agriculture of the people. The

sheep husbandry of this country is no

exception to the rule found with other

nations and in all histories of the in-

dustry. It is not necessary to say now

what has been the matter, who are hav-

ing a hard time, and who have no

grounds of complaint. A few years ago

there was a good deal of mystery, a good

many inquiries as to the sort of a sheep

was wanted, a sheep that suited the

farmers. It was found that wool

growers were dissatisfied, and that mut-

ton qualities, whether in a Merino or a

Southdown sheep, gave satisfaction.

OUR GREATER CONGRESS.

Brief Discussions of Matters of Interest by the Farmers of the Country.

James Addison, Elk County, Kan., says that the May report of the Kansas Board of Agriculture is not very cheerful. Last Fall 5,914,546 acres were sown to wheat, and 1,576,431, or 40 per cent. of the total area, was lost. The condition of the remainder is 63 per cent., or an equivalent of 38 per cent. of the entire area given to wheat in the State. The wheat in his section of the country seems to be better than in the northern section of the State, but the farmers around him do not expect to harvest much over half a crop. A little over three-quarters of the average acreage was sown to Spring wheat, and the condition of that is 63 per cent. Oats are not of the best on account of the weather, and the average for them throughout the State is equal to that of Spring wheat. Corn planting has been in progress throughout all portions of the State. In the southern Counties corn was reported nearly all planted on the last of April; in the central Counties about one-half, and in the northern Counties but little planted. Weather conditions being unfavorable, its germination and growth has been very slow. Peaches, outside of some southern Counties, are reported, for the most part, seriously damaged throughout the State, and but a light crop is expected. Apples and cherries are reported damaged to some extent, but there are still prospects for a fair crop of each. There are some chinquapin bugs reported, but no damage done, because of cold weather. The season is very backward, and conditions are unpromising at the date of report.

Henry Jones, Jackson County, Kan., says that from all indications the wheat crop of his State will not exceed one-third of a crop. The newspapers contain reports stating that the grain dealers place the total yield to be about 20,000,000, while there are many who do not think over 20,000,000 bushels will be harvested. Last year the crop was 75,000,000 bushels, and compared with the estimated crop of this year, there is quite a difference in yield. In the central portion of the State, where the greater part of the wheat is raised, farmers have almost given up the idea of getting a crop. It is not thought that enough wheat will be secured to sow the next year's crop. In the last 150 miles of territory in the central West, including Ellis, Cowe, Trego, Logan, Wallace, Greely, Wichita, Scott, Lane, Ness, Rush, Hooker, Graham, Sheridan, and part of Thomas County, wheat lies in the ground unsprouted.

J. H. B. Mendicino County, Cal., says that the sheep raisers in his section are having a hard time with the coyotes. The animals were always pestiferous, but the present season they have broken all previous records in the destruction of ewes and Spring lambs. It is estimated that they have killed from 50 to 60 per cent. of all the lambs on the ranges, which represents a very large sum. The destruction of coyotes has been very enormous. The sheepmen grow desperate and mixed their previous \$10 bounty 100 per cent., which, with the \$6 County bounty and the \$5 State bounty, made coyote scalps worth \$31. This brought into the field a stranger named Chester Ayres, with a reputation of his own compounding. Over the range Ayres buried his traps, with a perfume which he uses for bait. In the past five weeks he captured 46 scalps, which makes it very profitable for him.

Dr. W. O. E. Macomb, Ill., says that he has been interested for some years in the importation and propagation of a species of game bird called the chukar partridge, and has secured from the Old World a number of these birds, which have been turned loose to multiply in his part of Illinois. Recently the writer received from James Currie, United States Consular Agent at Karachi, India, three more crates of chukar partridges. The birds will be turned loose next year. The chukar partridge is considerably larger than the American quail, and about the same color as the quail. It is a native of the Himalayas, and is common in Persia and Arabia.

James Hendrickson, Belmont County, O., says that a peculiar superstition exists with a certain farmer in his vicinity. John Patterson, the farmer in question, was the owner of a horse which two years ago was suddenly stricken. He consulted an old fortune teller, and for the sum of \$1 he told him how to cure the horse. The money was paid over and the woman made a small incision in each shoulder and placed therein a silver 10-cent piece. Strange to say, the horse soon recovered, and although two years have elapsed it has never had a recurrence of the trouble. The money can be readily located by passing the hand over the horse's shoulder.

James Leland, Vicksburg, Miss., says that the cotton crop in his vicinity is very bad off. The weather around the 1st of April was very warm and pleasant, and plenty of cotton was planted. During the middle of the month there were very heavy rains, followed by cold weather, and this change of temperature has seriously affected the cotton. Much of it is dead or dying. Its appearance is sickly, and replanting will be necessary in many instances, especially in cotton planted just prior to the recent rains, which is rotting in the ground. Seed for replanting is scarce and very high.

David T. Pritchard, Rayville, Ind., writes: Your paper is the most thorough, practical farm journal that reaches central Indiana, and gives the practical experience and reports from our whole country. I will correspond from the gas belt. Spring is opening up beautiful at this writing, April 4. Fruit trees are in bloom and some gardens have been made. Potatoes mostly planted. Weather never looked better. Oats, rye, and barley looking well for this date. Grass taking fine start, and stock looking well.

Axel Jorgensen, Wright County, Minn., says that it has been his desire to work for the spreading of such a paper as THE AMERICAN FARMER, as it tends to make the farmer wiser, and sets him thinking that it is not enough to know how to cultivate the soil, but also to know how to put an even price on all products, thereby preventing his fair share from falling into the already plottish coffers of the millionaires, as is the case now. He takes pleasure in working for those that work in the interest of him and his fellow equals.

Daniel Norton, Columbia County, N. Y., says the only way he knows of to destroy the Canadian thistle is to plow 10 or 12 inches deep in May or June, during dry weather, and harrow three or four times for a few days. This will bring up the roots and that is the last of them. In pastures they want to be cut twice a year before blossoming and that will kill them. It is of no use to cut them after they bloom, for the seed will ripen and the pest will spread as rapidly as though it was not cut.

Your paper is a boon to any farmer, and I wish I could get it in every family in our (Jackson) County. We want this kind of reading among our wool growers, and they raise the sheep here without any education. The first paper I have I will write you a short letter for publication on wool growing in the South. I am 83 years old, but I was back 40 years and seen such an opportunity as is presented here I would show the boys what could be done.—Wm. STOKES, Ocean Springs, Miss.

T. G. Adams, Allegan County, Mich., says that he finds it a good way to raise nothing but the best. He has some choice Poland-China pigs and finds that they sell well when good pigs are put up. All his stock is raised in the Ohio Poland-China Record.

Tired, Weak, Nervous,

Means Impure, Impoverished Blood. The

Nerves Must be Fed by Pure Blood

Therefore

HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA

Is the Best Medicine to Take,

Because It Is a Wonderful

Blood Purifier, Nerve Tonic and Strength

Builder

Beyond Comparison

Where in the wide field of medicine is there a preparation which can for a moment stand comparison in the strong sunlight of marvellous cures, actually accomplished and on record, with Hood's Sarsaparilla? We have a larger number of honest, voluntary

Testimonials

On file than all other proprietary medicines combined. And these testimonials are not purchased, nor are they written up in our office, nor are they from our employees. They are plain statements of facts, and prove beyond question that Hood's Cures. Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies, vitalizes and enriches the blood, and this is the reason why

Nervous People

Find strengthened nerves and sweet, refreshing sleep by taking it. The strong point about the cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla is that they are permanent, because they start from the solid foundation of purified, vitalized and enriched blood. Hence there is nothing fictitious about the sleep and strength secured by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, as is the case when poisonous narcotics, sleeping potions and stimulants are resorted to. Irritability, Nervousness, loss of strength, loss of sleep, loss of appetite all disappear when Hood's Sarsaparilla is persistently taken, and

Strong Nerves, Sweet Sleep,

Strong body, sharp appetite, and in a word, Health and Happiness, follow the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla. This is the reason why the sales of this excellent medicine are doubling this year, and far exceed that of any other sarsaparilla or blood medicine.

Feed Your Nerves On

Pure blood, and all your troubles and ill health will disappear. Hood's Sarsaparilla makes

Pure Blood.



Mrs. Emma Huss
Reepville, N.C.

Nervous Prostration.

Years of Suffering Ended by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Appetite, Health, and Strength Restored.

"Reepville, Lincoln Co., N. C., Feb. 3, '93. 'Gentlemen: I have been suffering with lung trouble for 13 years. I caught cold easily and it settled on my lungs, causing a dreadful cough and difficult breathing. A short time since I broke down in health, lost my appetite, and suffered from nervous prostration. While confined to my bed I read of Hood's Sarsaparilla in a little pamphlet, and sent nine miles for a bottle of the medicine. After using it three

days my voice became natural, my nerves became quieted and I regained an appetite. In a short time I was able to walk, and before taking two bottles was attending to my household duties. I am now as well as ever, and my general health is better than it has been for years. I cannot praise Hood's Sarsaparilla enough. 'I would also add my testimony in favor of Hood's Vegetable Pills. I have used several different kinds of pills and I know by experience that Hood's are by far the best. They are so mild and do not bring on that sick feeling that follows the taking of some kinds of pills, and leave the stomach in a healthy condition. We will not use any other pills in our family as long as we can get Hood's. They may also be used with safety by the most delicate people.' Mrs. Emma Huss.

Use Only Hood's.

"Hopewell, Pa., Feb. 1, 1893. 'I want to say a few words in praise of Hood's Pills. They are mild, do not gripe, leave the head clear and free from aches. I recommend them to all. I will use no other as long as I can get Hood's. They are the best on the market.' LIZZIE RIDGE, Hopewell, Chester Co., Pa.

Constant Companions.

"I cannot tell the benefit myself and others have received by using Hood's Sarsaparilla and Hood's Pills. They are the best medicines that can be kept in the house. I had suffered much from distressing pains in my stomach, especially after eating. Perspiration would burst out over my body even in the cold months. The doctors failed to give me relief. My husband heard Hood's Sarsaparilla praised highly and I decided to try it. I derived great benefit from it. My mother has also taken it with beneficial results. We shall recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla whenever the opportunity presents itself." Mrs. E. MORRIS, Dupont, Pa.

Nervous Spells

Caused by a Sad Accident to

a Beloved Boy.

Swollen Limbs—Unable to Sleep

—Backache.

After a Year's Suffering Hood's Sarsaparilla Gave Perfect Health.

"Patchogue, Long Island, N. Y., Mar. 9, 1893. 'C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. 'Hood's Sarsaparilla has done much for me. After I lost my only boy by a sad drowning accident I was seized with severe nervous spells.



I tried all kinds of medicines and was treated by doctors for over a year without any benefit. My feet and hands swelled, and I

Was Unable to Sleep.

I grew weak and could hardly walk. I had severe pains in my back and my kidneys troubled me. At last noticing a case similar to mine cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla, I was induced to try the medicine, and it has been

A Great Boon to Me.

I commenced to take Hood's Sarsaparilla last October and have taken over nine bottles. I am now a well woman. All the aches and pains

Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures

are gone and I am no longer subject to nervous fits. I sleep well all night and never feel better in my life. It is all due to Hood's Sarsaparilla, of which I cannot say too much in favor." Mrs. JESSIE WOOD.

Cured Eczema.

"Five years ago my father was troubled with eczema in his hands and feet very badly. Nothing would do him any good. At last he saw an advertisement of Hood's Sarsaparilla in a paper and determined to try it. After taking the fourth bottle the disease left him and has not made its appearance since." LALY BOURNE, Mason, Ill.

That Tired Feeling.

Limbs Seemed to "Weigh a

Ton."

Health, Strength, Vigor, Given by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

"I am always ready to speak a good word for Hood's Sarsaparilla, as one should. I have used it for a year, and always keep it in the house. It has been of great service to me for kidney

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla CURES

trouble and indigestion. For years I was miserable, thin in flesh, and every Spring and Fall I was quite sick. I would have 'that tired feeling' and it seemed as though my limbs would weigh a ton. I had no appetite, and did not know what to do. Some said I had consumption.

I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and found it just the medicine I needed. It built me right up, overcame 'that tired feeling,' and gave me a good appetite." Mrs. M. L. MYKINS, 64 Champion Street, Battle Creek, Mich.

No Pains or Aches

Since Taking Hood's Sarsaparilla.

"Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 4, 1893. 'About three years ago I was troubled with pains in my back and irregular action of the bowels. I often had sick headaches and frequently was unable to do my work. Several physicians thought I had kidney trouble, but their medicines only gave me temporary relief. In fact, I spent considerable money in getting different medicines, and did not get rid of my troubles. A year ago my wife tried a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla and received so much benefit that I was induced to take it. I got three bottles and since taking it have not had any aches or pains or sickness of any kind. My appetite is good, and I sleep better than I have for years, and in short I feel like a different person. I keep Hood's Sarsaparilla in the house all the time." A. MADOLE, 1112 Woodland Avenue.

Drives Away Rheumatism.

"Last Spring I had Rheumatism in my limbs so bad I could not sleep. I read in the paper that Hood's Sarsaparilla would help rheumatism, so I thought I would try it. I used three bottles and have not had a pain or any signs of rheumatism for a long time." Mrs. JOHNS WALLACE, Stony Ford, N. Y.



Mrs. Susan C. Runtz

That Tired Feeling.

Weak Nerves, Dyspepsia, Sleeplessness, Etc.

After the Grip—"Like a Walking Ghost."

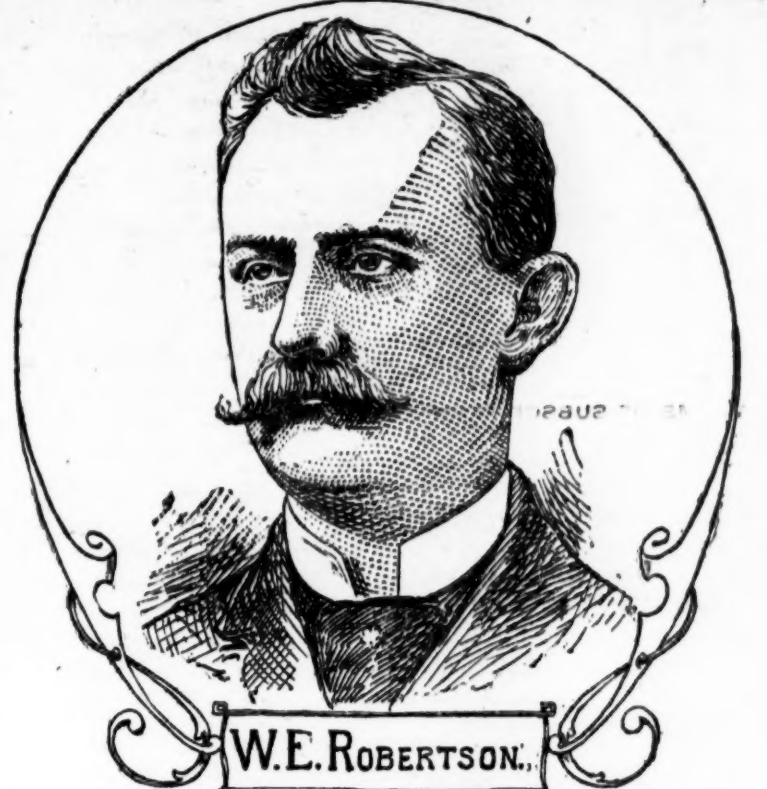
"For years I have had gastric dyspepsia, and in March I had an attack of the grip. I got into such a serious condition that I had fits, caused either by dyspepsia or nervous troubles, during which I could not think connectively or talk without forgetting what I was saying. I could not sleep, had no appetite, and people said I looked like a walking ghost. I was so pale. When I laid down I

Could Not Breathe

with any comfort. Something suggested to me to try Hood's Sarsaparilla. Before the first bottle was gone I had quite an appetite, which increased until I could eat well without any distress or disturbance afterward. I have taken six bottles, the color has come back to my face, I have no fits, can breathe well when lying down, and in short, call myself perfectly well. I am now able to do anything I want to do, and know that I would not now be alive but for this medicine." Mrs. SUSAN C. RUNTZ, Roylston, Vermont.

Praises Hood's.

"Monroe, Me., Feb. 3, 1893. 'I might write much in praise of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and then not tell all I know of its goodness, by my own experience. We have taken it in our family from time to time, for about four years, always with good results. I have great faith in Hood's Sarsaparilla, and take great pleasure in recommending it to others." Mrs. NETTIE BILLINGS, Box 44.



W.E. ROBERTSON.

A TALE OF WOE

Which, However, Ended Happily to the Man Most Concerned

The Story of "the Fall and Rise of a Zealous Stomach."

Important to all Suffering from Heartburn, Loss of Appetite, Distress, Etc.

"EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT. 'St. Louis Grocer and General Merchant, 'St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 10, 1893. 'C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. 'Gentlemen: Some time in the early part of last summer I became afflicted with what is commonly known as heartburn. Whenever I could spare a day from business I was in the habit of going fishing over in Illinois at 'Horse Shoe Lake.' Failure to take proper precautions against illness, and other disturbances, soon upset my stomach, and my digestive organs threw up their respective jobs, and I threw up everything else.

"I first attributed this rebellious condition of my stomach to too many cigars, which supply was immediately cut down. Things went from

Bad to Worse.

I began to lose flesh, and dwindled from 178 pounds down to 150. Everything I ate went to my stomach all right enough, but this same everything would soon manifest a disposition to leave the reservation, and I would, in consequence, have to suffer the embarrassment incident.

"Somebody said 'try hot water before breakfast.' I did so with temporary relief. Another recommended 'somebody's pills.' I took enough of them to make me suspicious that my informant was endeavoring to create a demand for that product. Still another said 'take exercise and a lemon before breakfast; you are dyspeptic.' I ate lemons until I partook of the nature of this tropical fruit and became cross. Somebody else said 'try bicarbonate of soda; you have got acidity of the stomach.' To listen to my friends I had everything in the world

Except Club Feet.

"I worried along for six months or longer, during a part of which time I didn't have energy enough to labor under an impression, and I became alarmed. My appetite was gone, and I couldn't have used any digestion if I had had it. 'I had enjoyed a reputation of being able—in newspaper parlance—to 'wield a rusty quill,' but I could improve on this now, for I could write of a man and say that ten thousand souls like his could hold high carnival in an empty mustard seed, and when his blackened soul sank to the bottomless pit, where it justly belonged, all hives would shudder at the intrusion and the limbs would draw aside their rocking garments lest they might be polluted by the infectious touch of the indescribably insignificant, pusillanimous, low, degraded, depraved and unweildable visitor.

Oh, I Felt Good!

"Well, I chanced to read an advertisement in the St. Louis Evening Chronicle, in which the statement was made that Hood's Cures. I had tried everything except baptism by immersion, for my stomach and I were getting so thin that it was with difficulty that I could determine whether I had back ache or cramps owing to the affection manifested by the abdominal wall, for the spinal column, which had contracted until it was scarcely 11½ inches wide, barely admitting six words to the line.

"I bought a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla at Alexander's drug store and began taking it. Now there's where a new trouble began. I didn't take it because I liked it, nor because I thought it would do me any good. I took it because I wanted to go clear down the line from hot water and headache pills to embalming fluid. What there was left of my stomach would

Tangle Up Like a Pretzel

If I as much as thought of eating anything solid, and I knew that Hood's Sarsaparilla wouldn't do any more than make it turn a handspike or perform some other feat on its now complete acrobatic list.

"But I was disappointed. A few doses of Hood's Sarsaparilla and I began to feel better. I could hardly believe it myself when I ate the half of a lobster and found that it really meant to remain with me over night. Gradually

My Old Time Appetite

returned to me, according to the advertisement on the wrapper around the bottle. I was careful at first with regard to what I ate, but soon found that I could eat anything I wanted. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla regularly, also everything that I could get to eat. I acquired an

Appetite Like a Rat Hole

and soon began to get fat. I used the contents of two and a half bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and then quit because I had to. My salary wouldn't justify any more to eat. I could sit down at a well-laid table and eat a clear spot around myself in ten minutes.

"Now, what I want to know is, What am I to do? I feel that I am indebted to you and your four that I could eat anything I want. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla regularly, also everything that I could get to eat. I acquired an

"I feel that I am entitled to indemnity—but whether I get it or not, I promise you this: If I go fishing again next summer I will guide my boat clear of 'hellfire,' camphor, benzine and carpet tacks reduced to a straw-colored solution and labeled, 'HYG. Spring of 1893.' 'This narrative is true, but not briefly stated. If, however, you doubt it, kindly communicate with Geo. M. Burleigh of the Taylor Manufacturing Company, or Chas. Abel of the C. Abel & Son Plumbing Company, of this city, and fifty others, if necessary, who carefully watched the 'fall and rise of a zealous stomach' over which I preside." Very truly yours, W. E. ROBERTSON, St. Louis Grocer & General Merchant.

Rheumatism Routed.

"I had been suffering for a long time with rheumatism in my left leg, my blood being in a very bad condition. I was advised to use Hood's Sarsaparilla and I did so with great success. Since I have been taking it I have not been troubled with rheumatism and my blood is in the best condition. I always keep it on hand and use a great deal of it in my family. I recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla very highly as an excellent blood purifier." F. A. SCHULTZ, 39 Canal St., Stapleton, Staten Island.

For Stomach Trouble.

"I have used Hood's Sarsaparilla for some time for pain in the pit of the stomach and have received a great deal of benefit from it. It has also taken it for gall stones and am rid of them entirely." WESTLEY E. SMITH, Frankfort, N. Y.



W.J. BAKER.

After the Grip.

Kidney Troubles Intensified—Health Broken Down.

Relief from Hood's Sarsaparilla Wonderful and Permanent.

From a friend at North Pembroke, Mass., we have received a letter which we gladly reproduce below. Mr. Baker is well-known by the residents throughout Plymouth County and the south shore towns of the State, being a successful travelling merchant and canvassing agent. A deep gratitude for the good Hood's Sarsaparilla has been for him husled him to write as follows:

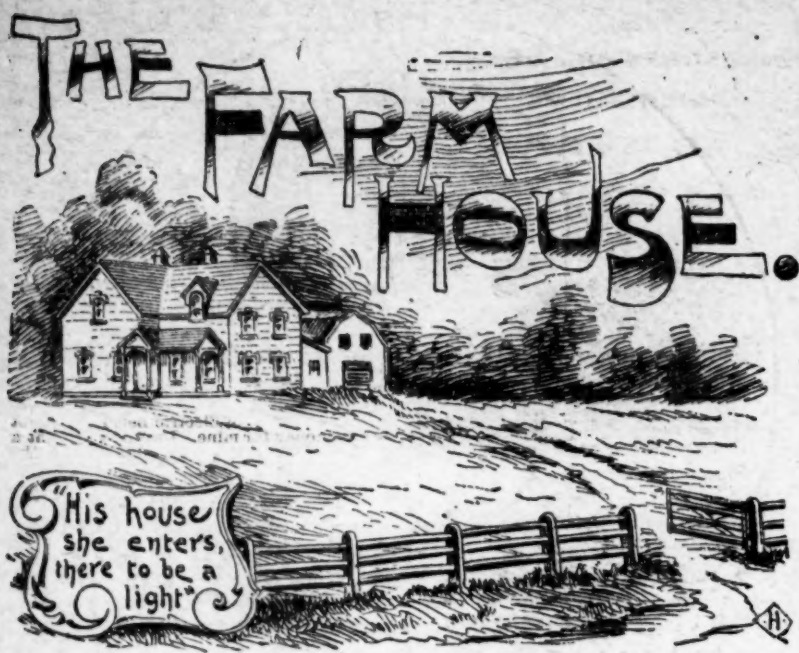
"North Pembroke, Mass., Feb. 10, 1893.

"I had kidney trouble and severe pains in my back, which was brought about by a cold contracted while in camp at Landford in 1892. I have been troubled more or less since that time and have been unable to do any heavy work, much less any lifting. I received only temporary relief from medicines. Last Spring I had an attack of the grip, which left me with

A Bad Cough, Very Weak

physically. In fact, my system was completely run down. I tried a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla and it made me feel so much better that I continued taking it, and have taken six bottles. It has done wonders for me, as I have not been so free from my old pains and troubles since the war. I shall continue taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and consider it a God-sent blessing to the suffering." WILLIAM J. BAKER.

HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA CURES



One Day at a Time.

One day at a time! That's all it can be: No faster than that is the hardest fate: And days have their limits, however we begin them too early and stretch them too late.

One day at a time! 'Tis the whole of life! All sorrow, all joy, are measured therein: The bound of our purpose, our noblest strife, The one only countess, sure to win!

—Helen Hunt Jackson.

MISS FRANCES WILLARD will prolong her stay abroad till September on account of her health.

MRS. CLEVELAND's tastes in jewelry are very simple. Although she owns a number of rings, she rarely wears any, except her wedding ring. A favorite ornament on dress occasions is a beautiful diamond star, which was one of her wedding gifts.

THE Princess of Wales and her two unmarried daughters are mentioned as spending their time in their quiet Norfolk home as simply as if they were the womenkind of a plain country clergyman. They seldom go beyond the park for their daily walks. Every day they personally attend to their many pets, and they sometimes drive, but the greater portion of their time is spent in needlework, the young Princesses being fond of making pretty things for their little niece, the Princess of Wales and her daughters are all good needlewomen and cannot only sew but cut out garments for themselves.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to raise funds sufficient to place a handsome monument over the grave of the mother of George Washington. Mary Washington was a simple Virginia housewife of sterling character. She was conspicuous for her dislike for anything like vulgar display or extravagant adulation. She was a plain woman of the people, strong in her faith and her integrity. For this reason the model of the monument at the Fair is of the plainest.

Shares are sold, some for \$25, some for \$35. These shares have accompanying their handsome metal medals, which are to descend from mother to daughter in direct line, carrying with them to the owner the right to vote at all meetings after Feb. 22, 1894.

Fashion's Fancies.

Passmenteries are much worn in lace patterns in yokes and for belts in empire gowns. A popular trimming for this Summer will be the new Bourbon lace. This comes in the most intricate as well as simplest patterns. In it are combined lace meshes and cords for wide flounces and capes, and also for narrow trimmings. A narrow, silk, crinkled braid is much used to edge collars and flounces, and at the top of fringes, made of strings of jet and loops of narrow, black ribbon.

THE SWEET GIRL GRADUATE.

She has never had a costume of so much importance as the one in which she is to face an admiring audience for the first time. Certainly, let it be white, and also let it be simple. If it must be inexpensive, it can be of thin Swiss or dotted lawn—it may be of sheer nun's veiling or tulle or silk. Nothing is prettier than a thin linen lawn made perfectly plain with a hem-stitched hem. If the young lady is slight, a pretty dotted muslin with a shirred yoke and puffy sleeves will be especially becoming. Sash? Yes, by all means. Nothing makes her look so girlish and graceful as a long, drooping sash. If she has plump, white wrists, have the sleeves made short; if not, Dame Fashion will allow them this season to come well over the back of the hand.



Make the waist a little low at the throat and finish with a fall of some

soft lace. One of the novelties is a dress with a plain, full skirt composed of seven or nine full breadths of soft silk, not at all gored. To dispose of the fullness at the top, three or four pleats are laid at each seam, one on top of the other, all facing back, the top one hiding those underneath.

In a commencement gown, as in all others, study what is most becoming, and be governed by the dresses she has been wearing. Do not try to have her wear, then, for the first time anything that is remarkably striking or trying. Aim to have her look her own self at her very best.



I know of one girl who was ambitious to become a young lady who persuaded her mother to let her do as she pleased about her dress. When she appeared on the stage her long curls were wadded up in a very defiant pug, and in place of the pretty girlish dresses she had always worn she had on a dark, heavy silk, made with a long train. Of course, all of her friends were shocked at the change, and grandpa would not believe it was Nellie and Uncle Ned had to rub his spectacles the second time before he could trust them. As for the hair, wear it as usual.

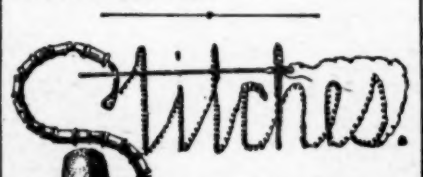
The feet should be incased in black silk or lisle thread, and a neat-fitting pair of kid shoes tipped in patent leather, tied with silk ties. A white fan, of course, is prettiest, but if it is going to make the outfit too expensive, one of the light-colored Japanese fans will do. As for gloves, don't wear them. If flowers are worn, stick them in the belt a trifle to the left side.

A new feature of the waist of this season is the pelerine or cape, which is covered with three very full ruffles, giving the garment a street effect. This waist with the Derby collar is very attractive when made of goods with a fine hair stripe. The surplice waist has its place this Summer with all of the rest, and the Spencer and the genuine skirt waist, which is made with a yoke like a man's shirt. In these gold shirt buttons are worn in the front, and sleeve buttons. When made of cotton they are "soft laundered," except the collar and cuffs, which are starched stiffly and polished.

BLouses.

The blouse and shirt waists are bewildering in styles of material and make. They are worn in all colors, from almost white to a black. White in silk and muslin are still worn, but do not bid fair to be as popular as they were last Summer.

Ginghams and percales may be had in all shades and varieties now and are much worn, as they are becoming, if well fitted and fresh, and are cheap. Almost any skirt may be sponged and pressed, to piece out the costume. Plain chambray, chevrot, lawn, and nainsook are all worn. The more elaborate ones are of tulle, surah, foulard, or wash silks that are dotted, figured, striped, or shot. These may be made six inches long below the waist line, and can then be worn either out or in.



Stitches.

(Contributions solicited from all readers.—Ed.)

KNITTED SLIPPERS.

Materials required: Two shades of German-town, one ounce of light and two ounces of darker shade. Red and black are pretty. Cast on 30 stitches of dark. 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th rows plain. 5th row—Use the light shade, slip 2, knit 2, slip 2, knit 2 all the way across. 6th row—Slip 2, seam 2, slip 2, seam 2 all the way across. 7th row—Like fifth. 8th row—Like sixth. 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12 rows of the dark plain. There are now seven blocks of the light shade in width and one block in length.

Continue until there are five blocks in length, with four rows of plain between each row of blocks. Then bind off eight and continue knitting until it is long enough to fit the sole. Sew the two ends together and finish the top with a pretty crocheted edge. Run ribbon through and tie in a bow in front. Use common cork soles or get the fleece-lined ones (they can be had for a quarter) and sew the slippers to them with strong linen thread. Turn the slippers wrong side out and sew on, holding it a little full at toe and heel and stretching it slightly along the sides. After the ends are sewed together the blocks will come bias across the toe. These are very comfortable for an invalid or when your feet are tired.

A NICE RELISH FOR SPRING.

Cook red beets until tender, chop fine, pour on vinegar, and season to taste with mustard, sugar, pepper, and salt.

In cooking Winter squash add a teaspoonful of white sugar to the seasoning. It will improve it, and also put a little in canned peas; will make them much nicer.—MRS. CROSSMAN.

Tablecover.

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: I send you a drawing of my own which no artist may be able to transcribe to your paper; if not, then throw it in the waste basket.



The drawing is my own and the design original. It is for the corner of a tablecloth, and also may be used on a dolly or tidy. You have no idea how pretty it is done in pale green silk, with the flowers in yellow and the centers in dark brown. It may be worked in outline or Kensington stitch. I prefer the former, as I would rather have more changes than to spend so much energy on one piece.

I wish some of the readers of the Farmhouse would tell me some good way to decorate a table for dinner. Suppose my husband's brother's family come over for a Sunday dinner, what can I put on the table that a farm will produce that will make it look dainty like my cousin's in the city?

Will some of the sisters describe through the columns of THE AMERICAN FARMER what she had to eat, how she served it, and how she decorated the table for the most satisfactory dinner she ever served in her life?—MRS. RALPH K. IRIQUOIS, South Dakota.

This is a very pertinent question, and one that many of our readers will be able to answer. She speaks right from her heart in making the appeal, as all true women are anxious to excel where every housewife is queen at her own table.—EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER.

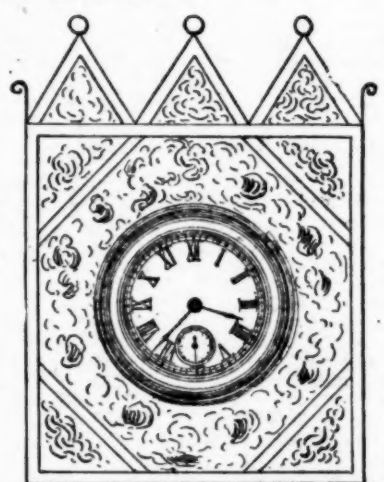
CHILDREN'S CORNER.

Recipe for a Happy Day.

Take a little dish of water cold
And a little bit of sunshine gold
Dissolved in the morning air.
Add to your meal some merriment,
Add a thought for kind and kin,
And then, as a prime ingredient,
A plenty of work thrown in.
But spice it all with the essence of love
And a little whiff of play,
Let a wise old book and a glance across
Complete the well-spiced day.
—The Housekeeper.

An Ingenious Case.

One of our subscribers by exercising his ingenuity made a case like the accompanying cut. It was made from the little deal box in which THE AMERICAN FARMER packs all of its vast number of premium watches.



With a fine cross-cut saw the top edges are cut into three sharp teeth. The entire box is treated with a coat of paint, and is then decorated as taste dictates with minerals and shells. If you care to have it lined you can keep a velvet or heavier lining in place by varnishing the entire inside with a very thin coat, and then put on the lining, which has been previously cut to fit exactly.

Any enterprising boy 12 years of age who will take his mother into his confidence will be surprised to see what a dainty affair he can make.

A TRAP.



Another thing which this same industrious lad may make which will be of the greatest use is a fly catcher. It is modeled somewhat after the German idea, yet it is much simplified. One like the cut may be made of two tin wash basins closely fastened together by holes being made in the rim and a small tough wire threaded through several times at one end and at the other made into a hook to fasten down after being opened. The upper half is punctured by a two-penny nail about 20 times for the flies to enter. The lower half is lined with poisonous paper, which is kept moist by a wet sponge in the bottom. The flies smell the sweet odor and go in, but are unable to get out.

This reduces the nuisance to the minimum, as no dead flies are lying about, and there is no danger of the poison being tipped over, and no little fingers can get to it. These flies may be killed, and thus rendered not only unsightly, but also a source of annoyance. In the drawing may be seen how it is hung up, also position and size of sponge on the inside.

WOMEN'S WISDOM.

TO EVERY WOMAN.—For the present, we have this broad offer to make to all readers of THE AMERICAN FARMER. We will give a valuable subscription to THE AMERICAN FARMER to every woman who will contribute to our columns a short, sensible, and original article on any subject of domestic or household interest. The contribution may be upon one subject or composed of short paragraphs on different topics. We want to hear from our devoted women, with facts, fancies, and experiences all around them. We want to know of their own, the training and education of their boys and girls. The contribution may be upon one subject or composed of short paragraphs on different topics. We want to hear from our devoted women, with facts, fancies, and experiences all around them. We want to know of their own, the training and education of their boys and girls. The contribution may be upon one subject or composed of short paragraphs on different topics. We want to hear from our devoted women, with facts, fancies, and experiences all around them. We want to know of their own, the training and education of their boys and girls.

Rugs.

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: I yesterday received the April 15 AMERICAN FARMER, the first copy I have seen for over a year, and I could hardly believe it was the same paper. I don't even now, I almost imagine that I some time dreamed of an AMERICAN FARMER with much smaller pages, smaller type, and a correspondingly higher price.

I like the "Farmhouse" very much, which must, I think, be something unusual, because I always like and am very anxious to take every paper containing an interesting household department, with a good-natured editor. We have had a fine Winter here in South Dakota; no snow and but little cold weather until now, when it is almost Summer, we are surprised by a fall of snow and rain enough to make the roads almost impassable for foot passengers.

Looking at the snow outside makes one draw close to the stove and shiver and prefer to write of rugs, Columbus or Derby capes, and fur-trimmed gowns, rather than lace hats and muslin dresses, though we hope the time for these will soon come.

I wish some of the readers of the Farmhouse would tell me some good way to decorate a table for dinner. Suppose my husband's brother's family come over for a Sunday dinner, what can I put on the table that a farm will produce that will make it look dainty like my cousin's in the city?

Will some of the sisters describe through the columns of THE AMERICAN FARMER what she had to eat, how she served it, and how she decorated the table for the most satisfactory dinner she ever served in her life?—MRS. RALPH K. IRIQUOIS, South Dakota.

This is a very pertinent question, and one that many of our readers will be able to answer. She speaks right from her heart in making the appeal, as all true women are anxious to excel where every housewife is queen at her own table.—EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER.

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Now, Mrs. "M. M." and everyone, talk back and I will at least say "scissors."—EMERALD, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

Blackening Stoves.

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: Do you not dislike to black a stove? But you do like to see your stove clean and shiny, don't you? But it is so difficult to keep the cook stove so all the time, especially if you have much cooking to do.

A stove ought to be thoroughly cleaned every six months. Get a man, if possible, and have him thoroughly clean it in every part and then black it very thoroughly. It is really too hard for a woman. It needs lots of elbow grease. If you use the common, hard blacking, wet it with strong soap suds to the consistency of cream. A little molasses will improve it and keep it from burning off so fast. See that the stove is perfectly free from dust and dirt and apply the blacking when the stove is about milk warm. Begin to polish before it fairly dries. Wash the insides, if any, with vinegar and water. Rub the pipe with a woolen cloth dipped in linseed oil. Rub the nickel-plated parts with woolen cloth dipped in kerosene and polish with a dry one.

Save all your waste paper and keep it where it will be handy, and when you get a spot on it rub it with paper, and also after sweeping give it a good rubbing. When frying meats, eggs, or anything that will be apt to splatter, keep a cover on the pan and it will save many a grease spot, and if it is touched up with a little blacking every day, it will only take a minute and will look nice without a thorough blacking for a good while.

Save all your paper bags and slip one over your hand when blacking, and when through burn it. They are much handier than gloves.—MRS. FRED R. CROSSMAN, Vermont.

"Mind Your Purses."

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: For a farmhouse kitchen, it seems to me, there are no better rugs than the old-fashioned braided ones. The making is never an easy matter, but if the rugs are cut and sorted before beginning to braid, and the rug is laid upon a table for sewing, the task is made easier.

Sitting at a frame to make drawn-in rugs is wearying, and it is better to cut the canvases in convenient squares, hem them and sew into small frames, then with the prepared rug in a basket at one's side the squares can be filled and then sewed into rugs of the desired size.

Very pretty rugs can be made of cotton rugs cut as for weaving. Knit them into a narrow edging thus: Cast on 5 stitches, slip 1, knit 1, put thread over twice, knit 3; 2d row, knit 4, seam 1, knit 2; 3d row, knit plain; 4th row, knit 2, 1/2, knit 4. Sew like my student days I used a strong thread and sewing each scallop firmly to opposite side of edging. Do not break the thread, but run it in the edge from scallop to scallop.

Scrap—Lately I have been looking over the papers which have accumulated during the Winter, clipping choice bits for scrapbooks. There are few papers which will not furnish many such, and these clippings are always in demand among young declaimers.

Old Moments.—My mother taught me to "mind my purses" in work as well as in reading. She also taught me to improve those pauses in reading or study, saying one rested much faster when the mind was pleasantly employed. Following that advice in my student days I read the greater part of the Latin Reader and six books of Caesar without a teacher, and in later life the world has brought its treasures within these kitchen walls, relieving the so-called "drugstore" of farm life.—MARY E. WARD, Vermont.

For the Home Table.

PANCAKES. Pancakes a la Celestine, or with a jelly glaze, are very good made in the following way: Sift a scant pint of wheat flour into a bowl, add a table-spoonful of sugar and an even table-spoonful of salt. Finally, break in, one by one, three eggs, and beat the mixture thoroughly with a cook's spatula or a slender wooden spoon. When a light, smooth batter is formed add slowly a pint of cream or of milk with two table-spoonfuls of butter. The pancakes must be very thin. In using some grades of flour two-thirds of a pint will be sufficient.

A thin sheet-iron saucepan, not on a griddle, and grease the saucepan with butter. As soon as a pancake is cooked spread it with apricot or strawberry jam, or any other preserve that you may prefer. Roll them up, dredge a little powdered sugar over them and serve them very hot. French cooks sometimes glaze them with a salamander just after dredging them with sugar; but this is an operation that adds nothing to their flavor, and the delay may spoil them.

STRAWBERRIES ON ICE.

A strawberry cream a la Celestine is another dainty. Have a cup of stiff jelly, either Maraschino or sherry, ready, melted, and a pint of choice strawberries. Imbed a Charlotte russe mold or any simple mold in cracked ice. Dip the strawberries, one by one, in the jelly, holding them on the point of a skewer. Line the bottom of a mold with them, and then the sides. The mold should be cold enough to set the jelly soon after the strawberries touch it. When the jelly seems firm around them fill the mold with strawberry ice cream well frozen. Smooth it over the top, cover it closely with a piece of white paper, put another cover over the pan containing the cracked ice, and set it in the ice box for 10 minutes. Then turn it out on a crystal platter and serve. It looks especially pretty decorated with a wreath of whipped cream.

LAMB.

Mutton chops should be from the best quality of mutton, raised especially for its flesh. The best wool-growing breeds of sheep usually have coarse, rank flesh, which is unfit for table use. Our farmers have not attained that perfection in raising sheep for mutton which they have in raising sheep for wool. When as much care is given to the raising of mutton as is now given to the raising of beef we may expect to have as fine mutton in market as England has, but now such choice mutton is found only occasionally, and is the exception rather than the rule. Prime Southdown mutton, however, is generally to be had at the great city markets in the Fall and Winter, when mutton is in the height of its season.

Lamb and veal are meats which do not require to be hung any length of time, as they are so tender that it is not necessary to soften the fibers by keeping. A piece of lamb is in prime condition for cooking within 48 hours after it is killed. One of the daintiest ways to

cook tender lamb chops is to bread them. Turn the chops carefully, flatten them, season with salt and pepper on both sides, dip them in egg, then in bread crumbs, and immerse them in boiling-hot fat for about four minutes. Drain them on brown paper and serve them with tomato sauce.

Another delightful way of cooking lamb chops which have been properly trimmed, flattened, and seasoned is in a cover of forcemeat. Make some chicken forcemeat as follows the day before, if the chops are to be served for breakfast: Cut the raw breast of a chicken in pieces and pound it to a paste. Add an equal quantity of dry bread crumbs soaked in milk, but not so soft as to prevent the mixture being somewhat firm. Add the yolks of four eggs, a teaspoonful of salt, and a little pepper. Mix all these ingredients thoroughly together, pounding them till they are a firm, even paste. Add about two table-spoonfuls of rich, jellied stock or white sauce. Let the preparation stand on the ice till needed. Spread the lamb chops with this preparation, mask them with beaten eggs and then with fine bread crumbs, and put them in a frying-pan in which a little hot butter is melted. Let them cook for five or six minutes on each side. Sometimes the chops are cooked a little before they are covered with forcemeat, in order to cook them thoroughly. Serve them with any delicate sauce. They may be garnished with heart-shaped pieces of bread fried brown. The lamb chops may also be arranged in a circle around a mound of green peas, a puree of string beans, or mashed potatoes browned in the oven.

A CHEAP, GOOD, AND QUICK PUDDING. Two cups rich buttermilk, one cup molasses, one cup milk, one cup raisins, dried currants, or cherries, or none; one teaspoonful soda, one-half teaspoonful salt; flour to make thick batter. Wet teacups in cold water and fill one-third full of batter, one-third of cherries, raspberries, or other tart fruit, one-third full of batter. Steam one-half or three-quarters hours. To be eaten with cream and sugar.

ANOTHER.

Two cups Graham flour, one cup molasses, one cup milk, one cup raisins, dried currants, or cherries, or none; one teaspoonful soda, one-half teaspoonful salt. Steam two hours. Sauce: one cup sugar, one-half cup butter, two table-spoonfuls flour, one cup boiling water.—MRS. C. A. FERGUSON.

ORANGE CHARLOTTE.

One-third box of gelatine, one-half dozen oranges, one-third cup cold water, one-third cup boiling water, one cup sugar, juice of one lemon, one cup of orange juice and pulp, whites of three eggs. Soak gelatine in cold water; add boiling water, sugar, and lemon juice; strain and add the orange juice and pulp, with a little of the grated rind. Cool in a pan of ice water. Beat the whites of eggs stiff, and when the jelly begins to harden add beaten whites of the eggs; beat together until stiff enough to drop; pour into the mold lined with the segments of the orange. Strawberries can be used instead of oranges.—ANNA CAMPBELL.

ICE CREAM CAKE.

One cup of sugar, one-half cup of butter, one-half cup of corn starch, one-half cup of milk, one teaspoonful of baking powder, and the stiffly-beaten whites of four eggs. Mix the sugar and butter to a cream; add gradually the milk and corn starch, and the whites of eggs last. Just before putting in the tins add the baking powder and give the mixture a brisk stir.

For the filling mix together two cups of sugar and two table-spoonfuls of water; boil until it hairs or will harden in cold water. Add this sirup very slowly to the beaten whites of four eggs. Chopped nuts or blanched almonds improve the filling.—MRS. R. F. PETTIGREW.

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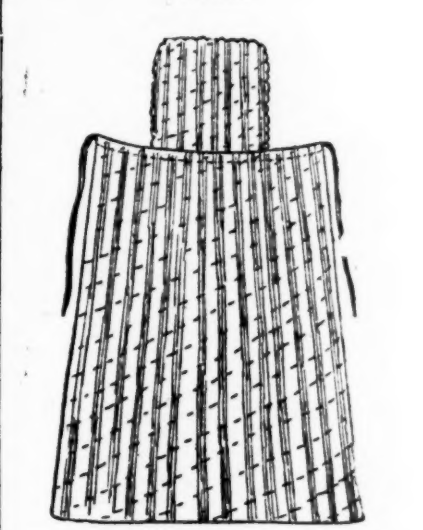
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